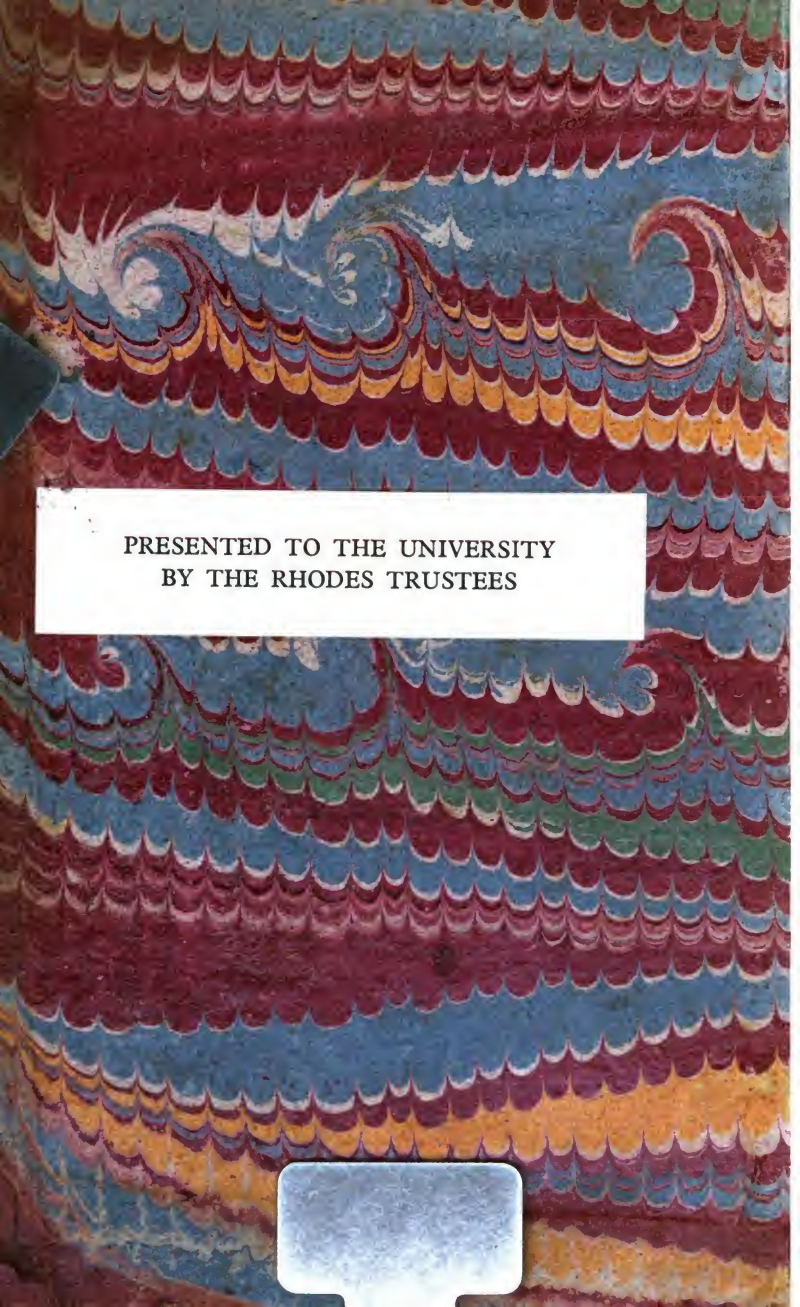


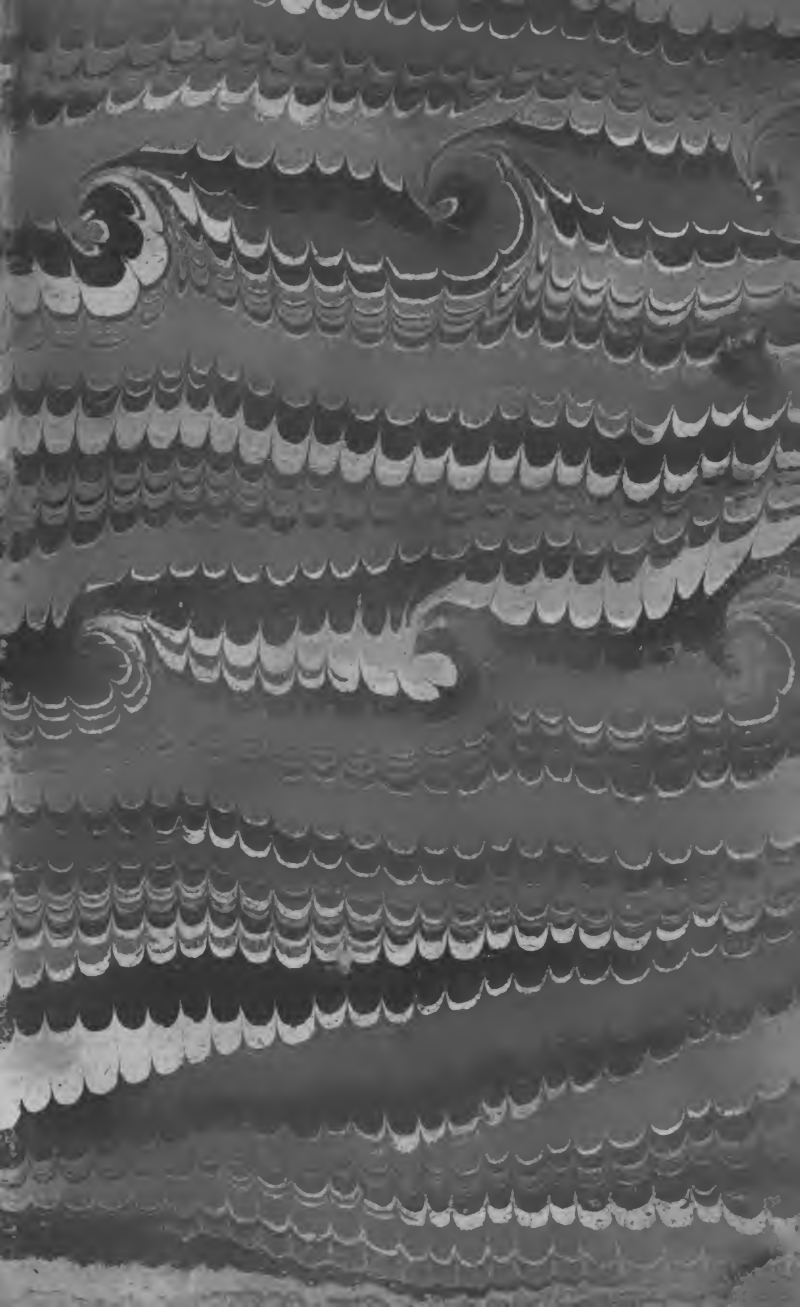
**CONSIDERATION
S WHICH MAY
TEND TO
PROMOTE THE
SETTLEMENT...**

Sir William Young





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CONSIDERATIONS

WHICH MAY TEND TO PROMOTE

THE SETTLEMENT

OF OUR NEW

WEST-INDIA COLONIES,

By Encouraging Individuals to embark
in the Undertaking.

By the late Sir Isaac Newton, Bart.

*Certus enim promissi Apollo,
Ambiguam tellure nova Salamina futuram.
Cras ingens iterabimus æquor.*

HOR. Ode 7.



L O N D O N :

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CONSIDERATIONS

WHICH MAY TEND TO PROMOTE

THE SETTLEMENT

OF

OUR NEW WEST-INDIA COLONIES, &c.

THE desire of promoting an enterprize productive of both national advantage and private interest, has induced me to communicate to the publick such thoughts, as may tend to advance the settlement of our new West India colonies, and encourage individuals to embark in so useful and lucrative an undertaking.

THE establishment of colonies has in all ages and countries, and amongst men of the highest abilities and rank, been ever esteemed honorable and ornamental to the most exalted characters; and at the conclusion of a peace, by which so great an accession of territory hath been made to these kingdoms, it is to be hoped there will be found some men of eminence and spirit, who will deign to countenance by their example, and assist in perfecting, so noble a design.

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To nations supported principally by trade and navigation, the establishment of remote colonies, (whose wants are constantly supplied by large exports from home, and whose returns of produce and manufactures greatly increase the revenue; and, not interfering with those of the mother country, nor drawing away its specie, have the further advantages of creating and connecting with it, still other profitable branches of commerce and communication with Africa, and the continent of America) is particularly beneficial and important. Our West India Islands, situated and circumstanced as they are, ought to be deemed infinitely more valuable, than if together with their climate and production, they were driven by a gale of wind to the land's end, and there made part of the Terra firma of Old England. If all our fisheries were confined to the river Thames, our sugar and other American produce procured from Tower Hill, and our coals from Blackheath, farewell to the commerce, naval power and security of Great Britain. But happily for us, what we mistake for our interest, and wish because we do not understand, is often not permitted us to obtain. The supposition, although it may serve to illustrate my meaning, can never happen. The natural effects of place, relative situation, and climate, and the mutual wants and necessities of men, give ingenuity and industry to our faculties, and constitute that busy scene

scene of subordination and dependance, that compose a great and commercial people. In this extensive view, our West India colonies deserve certainly to be considered as affectionately by the mother country, as if they were really so many remote counties, separated from it by seas, instead of rivers or land boundaries: and so far from our being jealous, or indifferent concerning their prosperity and contentment, we should acknowledge and cherish them as members of our own body, thus forming one vast Leviathan.

If such sentiments as these are consistent with sound policy, and the national welfare, and might therefore properly enough be expected to influence men in high station to countenance by their example the settlement of our new islands; there will not be wanting arguments of a more particular nature, to attract others, from private considerations of emolument, to embark in this undertaking.

In these expensive times a handsome increase of fortune to ourselves or families, is without doubt eligible to many of us. A life of corrupt dependance, an estate labouring under growing incumbrances, or a necessitous reduction of the conveniences or splendor we have been accustomed to, are evils that every man would wish to remedy; and to those who do not actually suffer under these misfortunes, a tender con-

cern for the ease and independance of their posterity, may be a sufficient motive to provide the means of preserving to them these inestimable blessings. But how to accomplish these desirable ends, seems now the important question to be resolved.

THE proposal of a project doubtful in speculation, and difficult in practice, and which may be attended with loss, instead of profit, in the event, will not be adopted, without mature consideration, by persons of real fortune and solid understandings. Before such can be induced to think of procuring lands and establishing estates in our new West India colonies, (which is what I mean to promote and shew the expediency of,) the security of the undertaking, and the extraordinary emoluments to be derived from it, seem necessary to be explained and understood.

THE Islands that are the objects of my present reflection and recommendation, are those ceded to his Majesty in the West Indies, by the late Peace. They consist of Grenada and the Grenadines, Dominica, St. Vincent and Tobago, and are all situated in the neighbourhood of Barbadoes and our leeward islands, being only a few days sail from the most remote of them, and but one or two from Barbadoes, the most windward, best peopled, and most powerful of any of our sugar colonies.

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To such of my readers, as may happen to be wholly unacquainted with them, it may not be unacceptable to receive some general ideas concerning each.

GRENADA is situated so far to the Southward as to enjoy from thence the advantage of being free from hurricanes, and will probably in time receive some emoluments of trade from the Spanish main, from which it is not very distant. It possesses two good harbours, and in a war with the Spaniards might prove inconvenient to many of their ships, which pass this way into the bay of Honduras, and the Gulf of Mexico. Our possession of Florida contributes to make this advantage to us the greater. The French in war will likewise be sensible of the want of it; for in order to escape our cruizers to windward of Martinique, it has not been uncommon for their vessels from Europe, to steer their course for the Grenades or it's dependancies, and to advance northward in security to their intended ports. The country is mountainous and rainy, which circumstances enable it regularly to yield good crops, and the soil produces a sugar of most excellent quality. It is well watered with rivulets, and abounds with good provision grounds for the negroes, which save considerable expence to the planters in their maintenance. This island having been indisputably under the dominion of France

France, 'till reduced by us in the last war, the inhabitants of it obtained a more favorable capitulation than those I am about to speak of hereafter, who had no such pretensions to lenity. In consequence therefore of this capitulation, and the definitive treaty of peace, they were and are entitled (contrary to what is permitted the inhabitants of the other islands I am about to describe) to the possession and disposition of their estates. Many of them have accordingly sold to British subjects their sugar plantations (of which there are in all eighty two, besides those of coffee and cocoa.) The French have harangued in the style of sellers, and the impatience of our countrymen and their love of novelty, has induced them to pay very high prices for their possessions, when a little time would have convinced them that better lands are to be procured from the crown at a much cheaper rate in our other islands, and more consistently with the publick interest. It is thought, however, that their bargains will turn out well, and their plantations be very improveable. As to the lands yet ungranted or forfeited to the crown, it is reasonable to suppose, by their being unoccupied, that they are in general ill situated, or not of the most excellent kind. The grants made to the French settlers are usually a certain number of paces along the sea side, running in parallel lines to the top of the mountain. The lower parts are commonly cultivated by the planters, the upper by the

the negroes, and the heights are either in wood, or inaccessible.

The Grenadines form a chain of innumerable rocks and barren spots good for little. Some however are of considerable size and value, particularly Curacoa and Becuya. The former is inhabited, and produces good cotton, the latter remains entirely unsettled and in wood.

DOMINICA, from it's vicinity to Martinique and Guadalupe, will in times of war be liable to frequent alarms and inconveniences, if not protected by a sufficient naval power; but as it's situation between those two islands enables it to cut off their communication, and to be particularly obnoxious to their trade and navigation, it is reasonable to expect these advantages will not be neglected, especially as it has always been thought necessary for us to preserve in those seas a respectable force, upon which the security of our neighbouring colonies equally depends. It possesses to leeward a most noble bay, called Prince Rupert's, which, besides it's safety, it's magnitude, the depth of the water, and the goodness of the anchorage, has the advantage of three fresh rivulets running into it. It has moreover two arms (one a peninsula) stretch'd forth, as it were, for it's defence, which might be rendered almost impregnable; and indeed the whole island appears as a natural fortification or strong hold, capable

capable of discouraging and baffling with a very small force the most desperate attempts of a formidable enemy. In the track of vessels from our leeward islands to our new-acquired ones it is admirably well seated for commerce; and contiguous as it were to the French, is ever open to the prostitution of a clandestine trade. The country is in general extremely mountainous and broken; but it affords, notwithstanding, much excellent land, and the valleys, luxuriant in their soil, are plentifully watered with fine rivers. The grounds especially in the neighbourhood of Prince Rupert's bay are rich, extensive and of easy ascent, yet (as this island was declared to be neutral by the peace of Aix la Chapelle) they have been the least cleared and cultivated by the French, because of the frequent visits of his Majesty's ships to wood and water here. From what has been said it is easy to perceive that this is an important situation, and will probably be the seat of a considerable commercial town. In different places along the coast the white inhabitants (who are in number about fourteen hundred, and possess from five to six thousand negroes) have cleared and settled many valuable plantations producing cotton, coffee and cocoa, particularly at Grande Bay (where the Jesuits have large possessions, and at Lubiere, Roseau, and elsewhere. But as these settlements are considerable, and have been established in violation of treaties, and contrary to the rights

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of the British crown, the lands which have been occupied by religious societies, will be sold for the benefit of the publick, and the remaining inhabitants will be permitted to enjoy their estates, only subject to such terms, conditions and restrictions, as, consistent with his Majesty's lenity, and sound policy, have been thought necessary to be required, and which will hereafter be more fully explained.

ST. VINCENT is an admirable good island, within sight of Barbadoes, from whence it will probably derive many inhabitants. It possesses a large and most excellent bay to leeward, called Washegunny. The sides of the mountains are generally easy and gradual in their ascent, and the plains and valleys interspersed among them, remarkably fertile, and plentifully watered. The eastern part, which is chiefly in wood, is inhabited by about 2000 natives, who owe their origin to a ship freighted with negroes from Africa to Barbadoes, and wrecked on these coasts. Their forefathers amidst the general distress escaped to shore, and found in a desert island a release from their bondage. Thus from apparent evils, do sometimes flow, the greatest blessings. Recovered from their fears, and refreshed with such sustenance as could be found, it is natural to suppose they soon solaced themselves with their female friends of the party; and as a state of nature is no enemy to propagation, they of course

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gave birth to a free people. It is said, they found in the woods a few native Charaibes, whom they have gradually extirpated, or reduced to their obedience. They have been usually represented as turbulent and dangerous, but experience now convinces us, that they are a quiet and well disposed people, speaking French, and instructed by Roman catholic missionaries, in the principles of their religion. By the last accounts received from thence, many of them seemed disposed to quit their little cottages, and spots of provision ground, and to remove to St. Lucia, or Martinique. But probably, when they are duly apprized of the humanity and generosity of our gracious Sovereign, and assured of the enjoyment of their lands, freedom, favor and protection, they may be gained over to our cause, and even rendered useful. I have already observed, that these people inhabit the eastern side of the island : The interior parts remain in wood ; but, the western coasts are fully peopled, and well settled by near 2000 inhabitants, who have found means to insinuate themselves into this country, as well as Dominica, contrary to the faith of treaties, and the pretensions of the British crown. They will therefore be put upon the same footing with one another, and permitted to enjoy their cultivated grounds, only upon such terms as seem consistent with lenity to them, and attention to the publick welfare. I shall not conclude this account of St. Vincent, without assuring the publick, that it has
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been daily found a more excellent and important acquisition to Great Britain, in proportion as it has been better known. It's present produce of coffee, cocoa, and the finest tobacco, proves very considerable. The richness of the soil, and the face of the country, are perfectly adapted for the growth of sugar; and as it is already in part cleared of wood, and the air healthy, there seems great reason to expect, that it will very soon be classed amongst the best, and most valueable of our sugar colonies.

TOBAGO, with respect to situation, enjoys the same advantages as Grenada; and though it does not possess any harbours properly so called, has several good bays, which, considering that from their southern latitude, they are never exposed to dangerous gales of wind, are equally convenient and secure to shipping. For this reason, our men of war stationed at our leeward colonies, usually repair hither for safety in the hurricane months. This island, from it's having been long disputed by different powers, and in consequence deemed neutral, remains wild, uncultivated, and in wood; but it will probably become the most valuable, of any ceded to us by the late peace. The soil is excellent, if one may judge from it's appearance, and the growth and luxuriancy of the trees it affords, and the country is well watered, and sufficiently mountainous to insure rains, without being so steep and broken, as to obstruct

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the use of carriages, and an easy communication. The cinnamon tree, as well as many others of great profit and curiosity, is said to flourish here, and it is by some writers described, as abounding with all the productions and variegated scenery of an enchanted isle. The establishment of a small settlement here, as a publick garden for the improvement of botany and medicine, and the preservation and culture of such plants as might prove beneficial to commerce, and suitable to the soil and climate, would probably be productive of much advantage to Great Britain. Such an institution, under the inspection of an ingenious man, acquainted with botany, chymistry and medicine, with an able draftsman, two good gardeners, and eight or ten working negroes, under his direction, could not fail of promoting useful knowledge, and conferring honor on it's generous patrons.

THE several islands I have been describing, namely Grenada and the Grenadines, Dominica, St. Vincent, and Tobago, his Majesty has been pleased to unite under one Government, after the model of the leeward islands. Accordingly a governor in chief has been constituted, of integrity, ability, and experience, together with lieutenant governors, and other necessary officers, both civil and military, who appear well qualified for the execution of their respective duties. Three regiments are sent thither, for their

their protection, with a proper staff, together with engineers, a company of artillery men, and the necessary ordnance and warlike stores. And for the better support and accommodation of those, whose publick employments require an immediate residence at Tobago, or whose private views may carry them thither, two proper ships are stationed, and will be continued there, 'till conveniences can be procured on shore. The lands appertaining to his Majesty in all these islands, are directed, as immediately as possible, to be allotted and disposed of for the publick benefit; commissioners have been appointed for this purpose, and surveyors are actually engaged in the work. But as several doubts have arose concerning the plan of government on this occasion, it may not be improper to enter into a detail of this subject, and then to consider those parts of it which seem liable to objection.

The object of government appears to be of a mixed nature. The lands, both cleared and uncleared, are the property of his Majesty; of which, so much will be retained to the crown, as shall be found necessary for publick uses; of the remainder, sufficient quantities in wood are meant to be granted to poor settlers; the rest (excepting what may be continued to the natives in St. Vincent, and the present French inhabitants, on motives of humanity and good policy) is fairly to be sold at publick auction, for as much money

as it will bring, which is faithfully to be applied to the publick service. But then this view is to be so accomplished, as to be compatible with the speedy population, and culture of the islands themselves.

EACH island is to be surveyed as soon as possible, with as much accuracy as the nature of the woods and mountains, and the rugged face of the country will allow. The division of parishes, publick roads, intended towns and churches, with all lands, fortifications, and other buildings serviceable to the king or publick, are to be first attended to, and properly provided for. And moreover, certain proportions of land in wood, will be preserved on the tops of hills, and on other convenient places, for the publick benefit, and to prevent that drought, which, in these climates, is the usual consequence of a total removal of the woods. As to the choice and arrangement of the ground intended for the principal town, regard is to be had to the healthfulness of the situation; all the necessary conveniences for shipping, and an easy carriage and communication, to and from the neighbouring country. The streets are to be airy, and so disposed as to receive the benefit of the trade winds; and suitable proportions, for yards, gardens, or small fields, will be annexed to the several lots for houses. Convenient market places are to be appointed, and good barrack grounds, with adjacent lands for the various uses
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of the King's officers and troops, and which the private men at their leisure hours, may cultivate for the service of the officers, and themselves. In these infant colonies they are thought intitled to this, and every other reasonable indulgence of favour and humanity, particularly an allowance of the King's provisions, and an immediate establishment of barracks, and a well provided hospital.

The lands which are cultivable, will be divided into lots, numbered, and laid down on paper, with proper descriptions and boundaries, to prevent mistakes. What is granted, will be in wood, from 10 to 30 acres, according to the ability of poor settlers; and for their farther encouragement, many of these parcels will have the advantage of being near the sea side, at proper distances from one another. By this means, the possessors may immediately begin to clear the ground, and will have a short and easy conveyance to and from the sea, be easily supplied with all kinds of fish, for the support of themselves and negroes, and the coasts will moreover be strengthened with inhabitants. To these grants will be annexed certain moderate conditions of culture, and the lands thus granted to poor settlers, are to be unalienable for seven years, and incapable of being united with any other, excepting in case of marriage, or lawful inheritance, or by consent of the governor and council.

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The poor natives of St. Vincent are to remain undisturbed in their cottages and grounds, and the French inhabitants, in that island and Dominica, are permitted to enjoy their possessions, by virtue of leases under the crown, in the following manner, and subject to the following conditions; that is to say, the lessee is to take the oaths of allegiance, and subscribe the declaration of abjuration against the pretender. He is to hold, by his lease, only such cleared lands, as he was, at the surrender of those islands, and still is, possessed of, excepting where his very great conveniency makes some small alterations necessary, in which case small parcels of contiguous lands may be added, and comprized therein, as the commissioners shall judge reasonable. In cases where lands were held before the late peace, by several French proprietors jointly, some of whom are since retired from them, they are to be severed into parts, and indulgence shewn in the division, to those who are contented to remain and receive their portions. But the lands which have been occupied by religious societies, are not included within the meaning of these provisions, nor intitled to the same favor, but are to be otherwise disposed of. And if any French inhabitant there happens to be, who has occupied more than 500 acres of land, as above described, in St. Vincent, or 300 in Dominica, his possessions are to be reduced to those numbers.

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Neither the leases, or any part of the lands thereby demised, are assignable to any other person, without a licence first had from the governor, and the approbation of the Lords Commissioners for trade and plantations; and a covenant is also to be inserted in the lease, that the lessee shall reside at least one half of the year in the island where the lands lie. Under these restrictions, and with these conditions, leases may be granted for the terms of fourteen, twenty one, thirty two, or forty years, at the option of the lessees; or (if they prefer it) for fourteen years, renewable at the pleasure of the lessees for a further number of years, not exceeding forty in the whole. And in consideration hereof certain fines are to be paid down, and quit rents reserved to the crown, according to the nature and circumstances of the case. But if any French inhabitant shall not be disposed to occupy the land, he has already cleared, upon the terms of the lease required of him, he will be permitted to take up uncleared lands, to be allotted him by the commissioners, in lieu of the former, and be moreover paid for the buildings thereon, by fair appraisement.

WITH respect to all lands in any of the islands, which are the objects of the commission, and which are not comprized in the above descriptions of lands, reserved for publick uses, or set apart for poor settlers, or which are the rightful property of the French inhabitants in Grenada and

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the Grenadines, or leased out to them in Dominica or St. Vincent, or possessed by the natives therein; instructions are further given by the government, to dispose of the same by publick sale: They will therefore be divided into allotments of different size and extent, in Dominica from fifty to three hundred acres in each lot, and in the other islands from one hundred to five hundred acres. The end proposed by this distinction, seems to have been, a superior population in Dominica, which is supposed in general too mountainous, for large sugar establishments, and, by it's situation, to stand in need of being well inhabited. These several lots will be so contrived and laid out, as to embrace every circumstance of convenience, the situation is capable of. And in order to prevent frauds, partiality, and undue preferences, and to sell the lands to the best advantage the nature of the thing will admit of, they will be set up to fair and publick auction, and sold to the best bidder, at a price not less than five pounds per acre, if the lands are cleared, nor less than twenty shillings per acre, if uncleared; and as speedy notice as possible will be given in the publick papers of Great Britain, Ireland, and America, concerning the allotments, time, place, and conditions of sale. And for the better accommodation of purchasers, the terms of payment are rendered extremely easy. The times of sale will be twice a year, in the most seasonable months of that climate; that is

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to say, between the first day of February and the middle of July, as it may be found most eligible to appoint; and the utmost dispatch is now using, by the directions of government, for preparing lands for sale before those months, in the ensuing year. The place of sale will either be Grenada, or the particular island about to be disposed of. The terms of purchase are 20 per cent paid down, (and six pence * per acre to defray the charges of the survey) ten per cent. more within the first year, ten per cent. within the second, and twenty per cent. within every successive year, 'till the whole shall be paid; which will of course compleat the payments in five years. The lands will be conveyed in fee, but in default of any of the annual payments, they will be liable to be again sold, in order that the king may be first paid, and the residue will be the property of those before entitled to it. Moreover, to prevent monopolies, and to insure the progress and cultivation of the new colony, certain conditions of sale and culture will be annexed to the grants. No person will be permitted to purchase of the crown in his own name, or in the names of others, in trust for him, more than five hundred acres in the island where the lands lie; and if in Dominica, not more than three hundred acres, but which may consist of different lots, as he may happen to approve.

* Whatever sums are expressed in the course of these sheets, are to be understood as Sterling.

And it is required of purchasers, from six months after the date of the grant, to clear away their lands at the rate of five acres per cent. annually, till one half of their cultivable lands shall be cleared, under a penalty of five pounds per annum for every acre not cleared, in pursuance of such condition: and for every hundred acres of cleared lands, the purchaser is, or shall be possessed of, he is obliged to keep thereon one white man, or two white women, under a penalty of forty pounds yearly for each man, and twenty pounds for each woman defective, and is to pay an annual quit rent to his Majesty of six pence per acre on whatever cleared land he has purchased, or shall clear, in pursuance of the conditions required.

As to the town and field lots, consisting of cleared land, they will be sold in the same manner, as the other allotments, reserving a quit rent of one penny per foot in front for the town lots, and six pence per acre for the field lots. But such of these as happen to be uncleared, will be granted away gratis, and in both these cases the grantee is required to erect thereon, within two years, a dwelling house, shop, warehouse, or outhouse. The grants of these town and field lots, as well as those to poor settlers, are irrevocable. But with respect to other lands sold at publick auction, the grants thereof will, in cases of fraud and collusion, be revocable for the

the space of twelve months, from the date thereof, by the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's treasury; but if not revoked within the said term, the grant shall then be absolute. If revoked, notice thereof shall be immediately transmitted to the commissioners, and the purchase money shall be returned, with the usual interest of the island thereon, together with a just compensation for any improvements made on the lands, to be ascertained by arbitration between the parties.

THIS recapitulation of the plan of government, contains all the particulars, that it seems necessary the publick should be apprized of; and an attentive perusal and examination of them will convince every impartial reader, that they are such as were thought most likely to be productive of national good, and the progress of the new colonies. Much care and reflection seem to have been exerted on the occasion. Little has been forgot, or unattended to; and in general, it must be acknowledged, that the instructions given, and the precautions taken, are judicious and able, as well as honorable. Some parts of the plan and conditions required, have nevertheless been represented as exceptionable and discouraging; it may not therefore be improper to afford them some consideration.

If the lands had been proposed to be given away, and this was all, it is not to be doubted but that many persons would gladly have accepted



accepted them. But this would have thrown open the gates to solicitation, partiality and corruption ; and persons in office might have availed themselves in secret, of the undue preferences afforded to others ; whereas the present method of disposing of the lands at fair and publick auction, effectually removes these apprehensions, and holds forth a common benefit, that may be embraced by all indifferently, without favor or reward. No man will be induced to pay more, than, he thinks, he has an equivalent for. The minimum of five pounds on cleared land, is less than the bare expence of removing the woods, and one pound for uncleared land, in these islands, can never, in earnest, be thought too much to insist on. No person, acquainted with the nature of West India plantations, will ever be a bidder for indifferent or ill situated lands, when better may as easily be procured, and the very choice or preference to the buyer, is worth more than five times the minimum. The expences of clearing, cultivation, and settlement, and the annual produce of fertile soils, in this part of the world, in fact renders the prime cost not worthy attention. And when it is further considered, that five years are allowed for the payment, the pretence is too trifling to need a serious reply. The establishment of infant colonies, must necessarily be expensive to the mother country ; and at a time, when the national debt is so enormous, that the effects are severely felt and complained of, it is
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but reasonable, that some returns should be expected from the disposition of these lands. Men of sufficient property to take up and settle such lots as will be sold at publick auction, may very well pay what can be got for them; and with respect to poor settlers, from ten to thirty acres, (which will be granted to them gratis, according to their abilities) is full as much as they will know what to do with. It were indeed to be wished; still further encouragements could have been afforded them; but this could not be effected, without suitable funds, and there does not seem a disposition to be contented with additional taxes at home, for the benefit of those abroad. As to the quit rents, reserved to the crown, of six pence per acre, it will affect the cultivated lands only; and although the weight will, on this account, be scarcely felt, yet all purchasers will, or may, consider it in their bidding. It is well known, his Majesty has been graciously pleased, to direct the money arising from these sales, to be appropriated for the advantage of his subjects; and this small tribute of a quit rent, reserved to a sovereign, ought not to be thought too much, when we reflect on the instances of generosity and paternal affection, manifested to his people, and which ought to attract, from principles of gratitude, far greater obligations of duty and attachment.

MANY inconveniences are found to have occurred in new colonies, from individuals having
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been suffered to monopolize more lands, than they could, or would cultivate ; and therefore, to prevent these ill effects, no man is now permitted, to take up in his own name, or for his own use, in any one island, more than the number of acres, which has been specified. But although purchasers are rendered incapable of doing so in the first instance, in order to prevent monopolies and jobbing, and that the field may lie open to every adventurer ; yet it is obvious, that as the lands will be conveyed in fee, they must necessarily be alienable ; no means therefore could be devised to prevent a transfer of property, without creating still greater evils, than those intended to be remedied, and which are too evident to need mentioning. Hence it follows, that an equality of possessions cannot be long maintained, nor is it necessary that it should ; provided the public interest is still promoted, and the new island advancing in cultivation and settlement.

FROM all these considerations, appeared the propriety of exacting certain conditions of culture and population, under certain penalties. But if the time, from which the conditions of clearing commences, should really be found too short to be complied with, it cannot be doubted, but that still further time will be allowed. In all these exigences, the spirit of the intention is principally to be attended to ; and experience in similar

similar cases convinces us, that we need never dread a rigorous exaction of conditions and penalties, provided the rational views of administration for the general good are not obstructed. It can never be supposed, that the orders of government are to be so executed as to defeat it's own purposes, or add punishment to misfortune, 'till the measure of distress is full. On the contrary, it's interest is to countenance and support the honest endeavours of the industrious, and it's true policy, not to see what it ought not to condemn. But prudence required that it should guard against the danger of allowing to avaritious and designing men, an uncontrollable power of retarding the growth and progress of an infant colony, and being injurious to the publick good.

WHAT has been just advanced, to remove any objection on the part of purchasers, to the conditions and penalties imposed, and to obviate any apprehensions of rigor from government on that account, is in a great measure applicable to the power retained by the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's treasury, of revoking the sales within twelve months from the date of the grant. The intention was evidently not to endanger the validity and security of the sales, by an undue exertion of authority, but only to prevent fraud, and to ensure that the publick should be served with integrity. However, to remove as much

as possible any suspicions on this head, his Majesty in his instructions to the commissioners, has been pleased to express the power reserved to be in cases of fraud and collusion.

As to the obligation of maintaining one white man, or two white women, on every hundred acres of cleared land, it can never be seriously complained of; for without any such obligation, the business of plantations will necessarily require, at least, such a proportion. And when we reflect that the want of people in our West India islands, arises in a great measure from the paucity of women, the alternative permitted may help to remedy the defect.

WITH respect to the natives of St. Vincent, enough has been said already. His Majesty's humanity exercised on this occasion, will never endanger the safety or honor of his people. But nevertheless, to take away every foundation of apprehension, a regiment has been sent thither to secure it's tranquillity. The arrangement of what regards the French inhabitants in that island and Dominica, has been a matter of much altercation. It has been contended by some, that as they have no just pretensions to indulgence, and will probably never become good subjects, they ought not to have been permitted to hold the lands thus usurped, without paying fully for them. It has been said again, on the other hand, that they are entitled to some favor, and are disposed

posed to become useful and faithful subjects, and might properly enough, therefore, have been allowed the fee of the lands they occupied. But after mature reflexion, perhaps it will be found, that the middle way pursued by government, has been the most judicious; for if they had been entirely deprived of their plantations, there is no doubt but they would have removed themselves and slaves to the neighbouring French islands; and thus a number of useful inhabitants, * accustomed to the climate, and their property in negroes to a great amount, together with the produce and revenue arising from their labour, would have been lost to Great Britain, and acquired by France. Again, if they had been permitted to enjoy their lands in full right, they probably would have soon sold their cultivated grounds to British purchasers, and then withdrawn themselves, and their effects. Neither of these were thought eligible for the publick interest; and therefore leases under the crown are proposed to be granted them, liable to such fines, quit rents, conditions, and alternatives, as they will not accept, unless disposed to become good subjects; or, if accepted, will effectually secure their being so.

ALL that seemed necessary to convince the reader, that no real objection or discouragement

* The number of French inhabitants in Dominica and St. Vincent amount to near 4000, and their slaves to upwards of 12000.

to the purchasing lands, is to be apprehended from the plan of government, has now been fully considered and explained.

But it is moreover objected to this undertaking, that the probability and danger of a speedy war with France, and the uncertainty of the enterprize ever proving beneficial, are sufficient reasons not to engage in it. The state of parties, and the prejudices consequential of them, unfortunately often operate upon private men, so as to render them blind to their own interests. Is it reasonable, that France, reduced so lately to the utmost distress, by the total ruin of her trade and publick credit, and the destruction of her naval power, should in earnest so soon think of commencing hostilities, with the poor remains of a vanquished fleet, against a nation triumphant in every part of the globe, and possessed of that superior navy, and those veterans, that constitute a number of the bravest and most experienced men, that ever did honor to their country? Is it not more probable, that whatever her wishes may be, she will still have wisdom to conceal her ambitious views 'till some proper period, when the spirit of our officers and men shall be extinguished by inactivity, our numerous ships decayed and in disorder, and their own navy increased and rendered formidable, by all the persevering arts of peace, and long consistent policy? Have not the various events of six unhappy years taught her this plain lesson, that however great
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her internal strength and resources may be, it is a superior naval power alone, can transport with security her forces to distant islands, and protect or subdue remote colonies? But if her ardour and resentment should still make her impatient of delay, what advantages in America can a speedy rupture afford her now? Would not Martinique, Guadalupe, and St. Domingo be soon exposed to our attacks? Have we already forgot with what rapidity a superior fleet and experienced soldiery, have subdued what was vainly once deemed impregnable, and the weakness of which, unknown to us before, we have now so fully discovered? But granted that these attempts should not be conceived against them, what have we to dread on our part? Have not our West India islands enjoyed security and protection, and flourished most, even in the bosom of war? Are we less secure in those seas, than we were before, because the Grenades, Dominica, St. Vincent, and Tobago, are now added to our dominion? If so, in vain are three regiments appointed to insure the tranquillity of these islands, attended with sufficient ordnance and warlike stores, and all the necessary detail that attention and caution could suggest. And if these several reflexions should still be unable to silence our apprehensions for the future safety of our West India islands, what shall we say concerning our present ample possession of the vast continent of North America? On this indisputed dominion, if rightly understood, will the

the real strength and importance of all the sugar colonies be hereafter found to depend; and if in the womb of time, either from accidents impossible to be foreseen, or the natural vicissitude of human events, an unhappy separation should ever chance to arrive, between the mother country and this gigantick offspring, the whole chain of American islands, from Florida to Trinidad, would look back on Europe with regret, but must necessarily accompany that continent, of which it seems to have once constituted a part. But enough, it is presumed, has been said, to shew that the settlement of our late acquired West India colonies might be safely effected, even if it were probable that a French war should speedily commence.

It remains now to examine, whether the purchasing lands in them, and establishing estates, may rationally be undertaken by individuals, with appearances of success and advantage. Our new islands are something larger in extent, than any of our old ones, excepting Jamaica; nor is it any defect in them that they are much less than it; for in hot climates, a long land carriage of burthensome commodities is destructive to cattle, and renders the interior part of a large country of little or no value. The soil in them is moreover new and fertile; they suffer therefore no inferiority on this account. The face of the country among them is generally mountainous and covered with wood; this is really on the whole an
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advantage, not a defect; for although there are some objections to too great an inequality in their surface, and to large tracts of wood, yet as these contribute to insure rains and fertility, and to produce rivers, they are very beneficial in these climates. The timber likewise is useful for the erecting and repairing houses, mills, and sugar works. All islands in these latitudes, that are low and cleared of wood, are remarkably subject to dry weather, and often parched up to barrenness. If these things are so, what should prevent adventurers from succeeding in establishing estates here, as well as our old planters have done in the infancy of former colonies? Is the business of clearing and settling lands less understood now than it was formerly? or is the neighbourhood of our other islands, and the commerce carried on between them, and their general communication with Europe, Africa, and the continent of America, any disadvantage to the undertaking? Are the regiments allotted them, the various officers both civil and military appointed, the frequent visits of our ships of war and trading vessels, and the sums of money that must in consequence of all this be circulated and expended in them, likely to be detrimental to new settlements? Although the taxes, and price of slaves, and the necessary expences of plantations and living, are much greater now than they were at the first cultivation of our colonies, do not sugar and rum bear proportionably a greater price? If
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So, the true cause of the real poverty of many of our planters, and of the diminution of their profits, after mature reflection, will be found to consist in this, that in our old islands the lands are exhausted and impoverished, the trees all cut down, and their estates become so dry and unseasonable, as constantly to disappoint them of the crops they expect; and their pains and industry deserve; whilst at the same time, the prodigious expences of frequent holing, manuring, planting, hoe-ploughing, and weeding their grounds; and the loss of cattle and stock, occasioned by their pastures being burnt up, together with the expence of feeding their negroes, from the want of seasonable provision grounds, added to the cost of timber and lumber imported to them, often bring the proprietors in debt, and very rarely admit of a ballance in their favor, suitable to the value of their capital. These are undeniable facts, and it is equally true, that none of these discouragements here pointed out, are to be apprehended in our new islands. On the contrary, it is well known that many of the present inhabitants of the Danish settlement of Santa Cruz, who were driven thither from our leeward islands by poverty and necessity, are now become, from the lowest degree of indigence, possessors of good estates; and it is as notorious that by far the greater number of French now inhabiting St. Vincent and Dominica, and possessed of plantations and negroes, were obliged to quit Martinique

rinique and Guadalupe from similar causes. But although this is acknowledged to be true, yet, on the other hand, it may be urged, that our new islands are unhealthy, sugar and rum will become drugs, and more money is required to clear and settle West India estates, than can easily be had. In answer to this, it must be confessed, that new islands, abounding with wood, and subject to frequent rains, cannot certainly be so healthy as old ones, entirely or in great part cleared; but if this objection was suffered to take place, it would prove too much, as it might be equally extended to the population and settlement of any new country whatsoever, where nothing can be accomplished, if something is not adventured. Besides, those who are acquainted with the progress and settlement of new colonies, know from experience, that much depends upon discretion, temperance, wholesome food, and dry lodging. A proper attention to these will greatly contribute to the preservation of health, and soon give a better character to the salubrity of the air. Persons that are always alarmed with doubts and difficulties, seldom accomplish great things. Why should we fear that sugar and rum will become drugs? Although more are produced, more will be consumed. Our conquests alone in North America will not fail to encrease the demand for them; besides, the same soil that is productive of sugar, is equally so of indigo, cotton,

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coffee, cocoa, and other articles. And with respect to the expence attending the clearing and settlement of lands for these purposes, it is by no means so considerable as is usually pretended. However, it is certainly true, that the more capital any man begins with, the sooner he will grow rich. But it has been already observed, that even the poor settlers of Santa Cruz, St. Vincent, and Dominica, have succeeded wonderfully, with little or no assistance; but what was derived from their own industry, and the fertility of the soil. And if we pursue this subject a little further, it will hardly be asserted, that the first adventurers in our old colonies, were guilty of draining the mother country of much of its specie. We have nevertheless the satisfaction of beholding, that their industry and spirited endeavours were blessed with success, and have procured for their posterity many valueable, and some overgrown estates. Let us not envy their prosperity, but emulate their examples; and if we dare not do it, through timidity, supineness, or want of ambition, let us honestly confess we are afraid, and own that they served their country at their peril, and deserved the fruits of their labour. They were no strangers, nor their sons aliens, but possessed of the rights and liberties common to all Englishmen. Those publick spirited and enterprizing men, who are now about to embark in a similar design, will deserve as well, and, it is hoped, may prove

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as successful. Since our conquest of Jamaica from the Spaniards, in the days of Oliver Cromwell, down to the present times, there has been no such opportunity of improving private fortunes; for the acquisition of the French part of St. Christopher's was inconsiderable in extent, and the benefits, of course, confined to a few.

It has been remarked by many persons, that some of the planters of our old islands have painted in very strong colours the difficulties and discouragements attending the establishment of our new ones. When this has been done with an honest design of promoting their settlement, by exploring facts not generally known, and discovering their weakness and necessities, in order to obtain every assistance and encouragement which infant colonies require of a mother country, the intention is honorable, and may be productive of good. But when difficulties are exaggerated, from party prejudices, or selfish and interested views, the motives are ungenerous, and deserve to be exposed. It is easy to foresee that the settlement of our new colonies will impair the value of our old. Such lands in them as are not of good quality and well situated, will not be worth cultivation. They will be displanted, and converted into provision, and pasture grounds. Many inhabitants of the middling and poorer sort, will withdraw themselves, and be induced to remove

where fertile lands may be easily procured, which are new, and watered with frequent showers. This will much weaken our leeward islands, already weak indeed, and render the wages of managers, overseers and servants, much higher. It is not wonderful, therefore, if some of our wealthy planters who have a large landed interest in the old colonies, should not be studious to promote the new. Private advantage will bias some, and it is to be feared, jealousy and envy may actuate others. Men accustomed to affluence and authority, are not usually pleased to see their inferiors rise above dependance, and possess, by lucky circumstances, superior fortunes to their own. Nor are these the only foundations of discontent and objection. Some affect to condemn the enterprize they mean to embark in, and depreciate those very lands they wish to procure; whilst others again, who hoped to obtain undue preferences, and to monopolize large tracts, with a view of forestalling the market, or of selling again at advanced prices what they never meant to cultivate, now find themselves disappointed, and their designs effectually prevented, by the present impartial plan of government. But juster sentiments, it is hoped, will at length prevail over such selfish considerations. The subject has been fairly discussed, the objections answered, and the inducements generally stated. But perhaps it may not be disagreeable, or deemed a useless
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repetition, to enter into a more particular detail of the advantages that our new acquisitions will possess over our former colonies.

OUR old islands, by being less mountainous, and almost entirely cleared of wood, are become extremely dry and unseasonable; at the same time that the lands in them, by long and constant planting, have so far lost the spring and spirit of vegetation, as to stand in need of more rains than they had before. But this reflexion has never been attended to by our planters, who attribute solely to the less frequency of seasonable weather, that deficiency in their crops, which is in a great measure owing to the impoverishment of the soil. Both causes have undoubtedly co-operated to produce the effect, and thus their estates hardly yield a crop proportionable to the labour and expence employed upon them, once in seven years. Nor will it seem wonderful, that the fertility of their lands is much impaired, when we consider the nature of the sugar cane, which from one rich acre has been known to vegetate to eighty cart loads, is cut annually, and has been long and repeatedly planted on the same ground; and when we further remark that the rains, although generally wanted, yet fall in these climates, at certain periods of the year, with such violence, as, descending in momentary torrents from the hills, to wash away the loose and finer particles of earth, which must necessarily carry off it's exuberancy with it. The soil, by these means worn out and

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exhausted, * ratoons ill, and is therefore cultivated and manured at an expence extremely heavy. Impoverished sugar lands, like hop grounds, have annually bestowed on them extraordinary industry and cost. I have known the amount of labour employed in one year upon an acre of ground, to have been as much as that acre would have sold for ; but I speak of indifferent or bad land. Hence the expences of estates in our old colonies are become great, beyond the belief of any one not well acquainted with matters of this nature ; and the profits, of course, are rarely adequate to the reasonable expectations of the planter. It is well known abroad, although it will hardly be credited here, that the hire of the slaves in many estates in our old islands, if valued at an average of three pence per diem each, will frequently amount to more per annum, than the neat yearly produce of the estate itself. *Experto crede Roberto*. But these weighty objections and discouragements, are by no means to be apprehended in our new colonies. On the contrary, the lands in them may be purchased at a very moderate price, and the terms of payment are rendered by government extremely easy. Such grounds as are too steep, craggy, or improper for sugar, may still

* By a Ratoon is meant the cane which springs from the root remaining in the earth, after the former cane has been cut from it. The ratoon flourishes best in new land, yields better sugar than the first plant, and is not attended with a tenth part of the expence in the culture of it.

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produce indigo, cotton, coffee, cocoa and provisions, or serve for pasturage. The soil being new, will be rich, yield large and regular crops, ratoon longer, require less planting, and be cultivated with more moderate expence, and fewer negroes. The trees cut down; will, some of them, be useful in erecting habitations, works, and other buildings; whilst some may be conveyed away, and sold in our former colonies for similar purposes. And last of all, the rugged and broken composition of the landscape, and it's lofty mountains, though unseemly and exceptionable in some respects, yet will for ever enjoy, upon real and philosophical principles, rain and fertility. As much of the merit of our new islands depends on the truth of this observation, it may not be improper to explain it. It is well known, that, in these latitudes of the globe, the trade winds operating in a regular and uninterrupted course from East to West, the atmosphere does not suffer those rarefactions and condensations, as, by the effects of different and contrary winds, it undergoes in climes, where this uniformity does not prevail. And hence it is, Dr. Halley remarks, that there is scarce any variation in the height of the barometer, or weight of the air in these parts. Now the vapours or clouds are generally borne along the Atlantick ocean by these winds through the pathless regions of the air; until interrupted, impeded, or attracted (on principles of gravitation) by
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lofry lands, and woods, they hang about the mountain-tops, and fall in showers; whilst the intense heat of the fun co-operating with this principle, draws such vapours from the ground; and the everlasting trees, on inaccessible heights, send forth such exhalations from their branches, as moisten the impending atmosphere, and, circulating, again revisit their parent earth. The wonderful effects of these principles are indeed curious and surprising to those who contemplate them on the spot. Smooth polished Barbadoes and our Leeward Islands, are seen parched up and perishing with drought; whilst towering and rugged Dominica, St. Vincent, Granada, and Tobago, are found to enjoy incessant rains and delicious verdure. The extraordinary advantages and profits to be derived from this and the other causes, I have before assigned, cannot fail to be extremely inviting to those that understand their real importance, and are desirous of improving their fortunes. A sugar estate of five hundred acres of good land, properly cleared, and supplied with slaves, cattle, buildings, and other requisites, in an island where the lands are new and luxuriant, and the rains frequent, must assuredly produce a noble income. It would probably be capable of affording annually, not less than four hundred hogsheads of sugar, and a large proportion of rum; especially as this last commodity is made to greatest advantage where there is plenty of water, and much molasses is drained from

from the sugar. The value of this sugar and rum, at a moderate calculation, will appear to amount to a very great interest upon the capital laid out, which will be found to bring in more profit, than five times that sum expended in our old colonies. It is well known that in St. Kitts (although it is subject to dry weather, and the soil ratons very ill) good lands have often sold at one hundred pounds sterling per acre: whereas, an acre in a new colony may, with proper management, be cleared for less than twenty pounds, after deducting every expence, and allowing even for the mortality of slaves. Besides, great satisfaction must accrue in new colonies from the certainty of the crops, opposed to the consideration of the precariousness of them in old ones; a constant source of complaint, and discontent, and the true foundation of those debts and distresses, too commonly experienced even by planters of frugality and industry. But these are not the only advantages, great as they are, that will be enjoyed; for the plantation may be worked with half the number of negroes and expence, that would be required upon lands impoverished and frequently planted and manured; and every such negro will be capable, from the great fertility of the soil, and ease of its culture, of earning more money in two years, than his original cost and maintenance has amounted to. This will appear obvious, when we consider that the first plant in new and good ground has been known to ratoon

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and yield annual good crops for more than twenty years together. Whereas old land commonly requires to be hoed, manured, and replanted every second or third year; by which, besides the extraordinary expence attending it, one crop in three is lost. Moreover, the provisions regularly yielded on moist and good grounds, must greatly lessen the cost of feeding and supporting the slaves. The conveniences and comforts will from hence be even great to the white inhabitants; for all manner of herbs, garden stuff, and fruits, so difficult to be raised in our former dry islands, may here be procured with little trouble. The rivulets also will afford good store of fresh fish, and the luxuriancy of the pasturage, great plenty of beef, mutton, &c. at moderate prices, whereas these articles in our old colonies are become extremely dear, and difficult to be maintained at any rate. Nor should the consideration of the expences attending the speedy settlement of a sugar plantation, at all discourage persons of small fortune, and much caution, from adventuring in our new colonies; since they will have it in their power to prosecute plans, proportionably advantageous to themselves, with less hazard and expence of money. It is by no means essential, at present, to point out all the particular and various steps proper to be taken for this end. But, in general, it may be well to remark, that it may be best accomplished by risking few negroes at the first out-set, and erecting temporary

porary huts and buildings, at little cost, and then, (after planting the necessary provisions) immediately applying to the culture of indigo, cotton, coffee, or cocoa, articles which afford good and speedy profit, yet require but few slaves, and little expence of building, in order to raise and manufacture them. It is evident, that by these and similar means, considerable estates may be gradually established at an easy rate, which will not only be annually improving, and reimbursing the moneys expended upon them, but may moreover be converted afterwards into sugar plantations, or if the proprietors should be disposed to part with them, might probably be sold for four or five hundred per cent. advantage. Many persons alarmed with the difficulties of beginning a new settlement, will yet be desirous of purchasing a few years hence; and there can be no doubt but that lands will rise very highly in their value, as soon as time shall draw up the curtain, and open a fair prospect of success.

I shall now proceed to communicate to the reader some general ideas concerning the properest methods to be pursued by adventurers in our new colonies, to engage success, and establish estates.

ALL persons disposed to embark in this undertaking, with a view of improving their fortunes, should first consider the capital they mean to employ, the nature of the project, and the length

of time they can conveniently afford to lie out of their money. It will then be necessary that themselves, or the friends or agents they are pleased to depute for this business, should carefully inspect and examine the lands on the spot. The surface of the ground, and the nature of situation should be first attended to; and these will include our ideas of the probability of its healthiness, the kind of produce it seems best adapted to, the labour and carriage essential to it, its vicinity to, or distance from rivulets, the sea, shipping places, and the principal towns, together with a free enjoyment of the trade winds, and the likelihood of frequent showers and seasonable weather. As to the quality of the soil, it may be pretty well guessed at by the timber and trees it affords, the appearance it bears, and a chymical examination of its principles; for which the necessary means may be easily known and procured. When a tract of ground is pitched on, that enjoys all or most of these advantages, the inspector should by no means be discouraged by the price it may amount to; for the first cost will be inconsiderable, in proportion to the expence of clearing and settling; and the ensuing conveniences and profits will most amply repay it. Previous to, or after the purchase, it will be necessary, especially if the proprietor does not mean to become an inhabitant, to form useful connections and friendships with experienced men engaged in the same pursuit, and residing in

in the neighbourhood. This will not be found so difficult to effect, as may at first be imagined. Men embarking in the same enterprize, and whose particular advantages and emoluments depend upon the success of the whole, will find it their mutual interest to lend every assistance in their power to each other. This is so true, that in the islands of Antigua, St. Christophers, &c. it is usual for planters to superintend the affairs of others in their absence, and give the necessary directions to the managers and overseers, for the proper cultivation and maintenance of their estates, and this without any pecuniary consideration. A reciprocal service of the same kind, which every planter expects from his neighbour, and which long and invariable custom has established into a sort of right, and the additional weight and importance persons residing on the spot derive from a power of conferring obligations on those they employ, or in shipping the produce of the estates committed to their care, and purchasing the necessary utensils and provisions for their use, are sufficient inducements to engage a faithful discharge of their trust. Under the inspection, and subject to the orders of such a representative, a good natured and intelligent manager and overseer are now to be appointed to direct, and proper slaves procured to execute the business. A few able and sensible tradesmen and negroes, who are contented from a love of novelty, or other causes and encouragements, to change their former habita-

habitations, should be procured in our old islands, and transported to the new colony; but none should on any account be compelled to this against their inclinations. What further slaves are wanted, may be purchased from Guinea cargoes, and recommended to the care and protection of the others; and, it is presumed, will turn out better in many respects, than negroes accustomed to our other islands, and pining after former connections and habits. The miseries and misfortunes of our fellow creatures afford a melancholy contemplation to compassionate dispositions. How pleasing then must be the reflection, when the degrees of our private interest depend upon the measure of our benevolence. The first fair step of success will accompany humanity, and the great point in view will be, with the blessing of providence, to preserve the health of our people. To this end they should be lodged at night in temporary huts, or in hulks of vessels, provided and situated for that purpose. They should then immediately proceed to clear away the woods on the most healthy spot, which will probably be found on some eminence, exposed to a free and dry air. Here a dwelling house for the overseer, and convenient negro houses, should be immediately erected; and a very commodious sick house or hospital, furnished with every necessary and comfort for the sick, especially good nurses, and a sensible practitioner. Wise men will not attempt too rapid a progress, or introduce more slaves than

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can properly be inspected when well, or attended when oppressed with illness. From twenty to thirty will, perhaps, at first be sufficient for the largest possession, and in all probability may prove adequate to fulfilling the conditions of clearing and culture; but they should be immediately supplied as they may happen to fall off, and their spirits should be supported with good nature and tenderness. In particular, they should be well fed, properly clothed, and supplied with all those little aids of conveniency and comfort, which it is well known in that part of the world, will cheer up and gladden their hearts. The expences attending this little policy, care and benevolence, will not be thought burthensome by those masters who are either wise or good: for the performance of this duty will be rewarded with the blessings of God, and the affections of their dependants. As to the labour they must undergo, it should not be too severe, or disproportioned to their abilities; and in wet mornings, bad weather, and other suitable occasions, it will prove our interests to encourage, and afford them some indulgence. Their pride should be cultivated, their punishments inflicted with prudence, moderation and concern. And in order to prevent the cruelties that might be exercised by some men, thro' want of judgment or defect of feeling, a proper law of the country should be speedily established, to restrain them within due bounds, which should likewise provide in some measure for the food and raiment of the

the slaves. Such a law cannot fail of benefiting the colony, at the same time that it will reflect honor on human nature ; and will be deemed more particularly necessary, when it is considered that the lower class of adventurers residing in new colonies, is generally made up of men, who stand in need of other inducements than such as their own sentiments furnish them with, to act up to the dictates of humanity and propriety. It were to be wished moreover, that some sentiments of religion could be instilled into the minds of the negroes. I am sure it would be expedient ; but am fearful this would require more attention and assistance than protestants will choose to employ on such an occasion. I am sorry to remark our defect of zeal, and to make this further observation, that though the doctrines of our religion are more pure and simple than the Roman catholicick, yet this last is more fitly adapted to engage and captivate the passions of unthinking savages. Persons of some capital or credit, adventuring in these new colonies, and proceeding in the manner that has been suggested, cannot well fail of success, as far as weak human foresight can ascertain it. If therefore it should seem that too much has been said concerning the treatment, care, and protection of our negroes, it is because it is conceived impossible to miscarry in other points, if we succeed in these. And now it will be proper, that still further grounds should be cleared round about the dwellings and cottages, before recommended

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to be erected : And first of all, provisions should be planted for the white people and negroes, and pasturage prepared for cattle and other beasts. After this is accomplished, attention may be had to raise some sort of produce and profit, in order to reimburse past expences. And this will consist of either indigo, cotton, coffee, cocoa, or sugar, as may be compatible with the ideas and abilities of the planter. But advice and theory on this head, would at present be vain and unregarded ; for, time, industry, and experience alone, can furnish opportunity, and beget profitable knowledge.

F I N I S.







